

Through December 10, 205 trees had been removed from the Middlesex/Union infestation area. Of the 205 trees, 165 were infested trees and 40 were high-risk host trees near infested trees.

Crews are working in a streambed in the Avenel section of Woodbridge along the Carteret border.

In this first phase of cutting, 1,000 host trees will be removed, including the 410 identified as infested. Over the next several months, more than 4,000 host trees in total will be removed.

The ALB Cooperative Eradication Program is slated to be the subject of a feature story in the *Newark Star-Ledger* on Sunday, December 12. The story will cover the history of the ALB program and the efforts to eradicate the beetle from the United States.

Field surveys of the Middlesex/Union infestation continued this week, with 56,074 trees inspected to date. The number of infested trees remained at 410.

On Sunday, December 5, NJDA Division of Plant Industry Director Carl Schulze and USDA's New Jersey ALB Cooperative Eradication Program Director Barry Emens were call-in guests on Ralph Snodsmith's syndicated radio program, "Garden Hotline." They updated Snodsmith's listeners on the eradication efforts. Numerous calls to New Jersey's ALB Hotline, 1-866-BEETLE 1, were received from listeners who thought they had seen signs of the beetle on their properties. As with any calls to the hotline, they are being investigated.